

Falconian

Q U A R T E R L Y

Melbourne, Florida

Florida Air Academy

Fall 2001



This fall begins the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Florida Air Academy. There will be events all through the year to commemorate this very special school year.

On October 19 and 20, the Academy will be hosting the annual Fall Family Weekend and Open House. This event, which is geared towards current cadets and their parents, will contain some "40th" related surprises as well as a military parade and assemblies. For an agenda of the weekend's events visit our website at www.flair.com.

Alumni events originally scheduled for this weekend have been postponed until the spring. Visit the alumni section of the new website for more information.



The entire Florida Air Academy community wishes to express our condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks. God bless our great country.

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The Falcon Fleet



Academy President James Dwight is a private pilot with over 450 hours of flying as pilot in command. He gives this new Warrior III his personal stamp of approval.

Florida Air Academy has a new addition to its property, but it's not a building or a bus. It's an aircraft! In order to better meet the needs of our student pilots, the Board of Directors felt that purchasing this new airplane would be the proper next step in the development of our flight program. With this new airplane, the Academy added flexibility in scheduling instruction for our cadets.

The airplane is a Piper Warrior III, the newest product off the line at the

Vero Beach assembly plant. Delivered on the 27th of August, Col. James Dwight personally tested the craft for safety and maneuverability before turning it over to Major Hudacek, FAA Flight Coordinator for cadet flight training.

Our new four-seat airplane has the latest in avionics including a dual moving map global positioning system. It flies with the tail insignia of a blue falcon, the symbol of Florida Air Academy.

What is one of the greatest human fears?

See "Facing the Challenge" on page 3 for the answer.



SHOCKWAVES OF ATTACKS ON AMERICA FELT AT FAA

by Cadet Harris Reitman-Swiss

The morning of September 11, 2001, started as any other, with the sun rising over the fabled New York skyline. Lady Liberty stood in proud watch over the many beacons of freedom and free enterprise that is America; and yet, by 10:30 that same bright, clear, crisp late summer morn, the skies over New York, America, and the world, would be smothered by a thick blanket of black smoke, the bright beacon of freedom, reduced to a smoldering heap. At 8:45 am est., American Flight 11 crashed into WTC north, sending the streets into panic, and the people above the gaping hole into a certain death choice. Jump, or burn to death. Only minutes later, at 9:03 am est., the world then watched in horror as a second airliner crashed into the second tower, WTC south leaving another mass of people with that horrific choice. At Florida Air Academy, we all watched on, in a trance. Disbelief filled the room.

"It's like watching a movie, it just doesn't happen..." said Levi Jordan, third squadron commander. "...like a nightmare, and you can't wake up"

Shortly after another plane crashed into the army wall of the pentagon in DC. Scarcely ten minutes passed, and the absolutely unthinkable happened. The WTC south collapsed, and with it, all the rescuers and workers, still trapped in the smoldering rubble.

"I was in shock..." commented Cadet Sebastian Wright, "...surprised that someone would do that."

Signs of heroism stand out as a beacon of their own. The work of the firefighters and police in NYC to save even one life is amazing, and those men and women are risking their lives for others. The chaplain for New York's bravest gave his own life reading the last rites to a fallen comrade. That is true dedication. One sign of heroism was the actions of the passengers on United Flight 93, whom, although already knowing of their impending deaths, saved countless other lives by overcoming their attackers, and crashing into a field outside of Pittsburgh, allowing the only deaths to come of their crash be themselves.

Heroics are not only from abroad, but

here at FAA, cadets are eager to help. "The only thing they have succeeded in doing is making us stronger" commented Cadet Jason Moreth, XO of HQ, " and now it is our turn." The nurses are currently organizing a blood drive, and Cadet Jordan is organizing a multi faceted drive, collecting items such as food, money, and other items that might help the relief efforts.

Casualties are estimated to run well over 5000 total. Most of them are still missing. Predictions of tens of thousands of deaths came on that Tuesday, but fortunately, if one could use such a term, 'only' five thousand or so are still missing.

As the president commented that night, freedom itself was attacked. " You can shake the foundation of our biggest buildings, but you cannot touch the foundation of America. You can shatter steel, but you cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

America saw a great tragedy that fateful Tuesday. We saw three of our brightest beacons destroyed or crippled. We saw men and women, in tatters, jumping off of buildings, or left with an unimaginable choice. But America also witnessed something great, something so massive, that the effects of it shine as brightly as the shadows cast by the cowards who committed evil. Take a look across the world, in seventy-five different nation-states, the flags at the Capitols are at half-mast. Take a look across this great nation, and you shall see the American flag gracing nearly every street corner, billboard sign, and at every pole at half mast. Flags are lining every car lot in America, sometimes with 20 or more flags on one lot. Americans from sea to shining sea are taking flags to bridges,

corners, overpasses, and every visible space imaginable, waving in sheer defiance, at this cowardice that stalks our world. We have answered the call in force, but we must also remember that not everyone of a different hue is an enemy. To echo the confidence of our President, we shall prevail in our efforts. It is up to us, however, to make this goal a reality. It is War, but of a new sort, one the likes of which the world has never seen. Perhaps Abraham Lincoln put it best back in 1862:

"As our case is new; so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenfranchise ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

**United We Stand.
God Bless America.**



FACING THE CHALLENGE

The Jonathan Dwight Memorial Award

According to psychologists, one of the greatest human fears is public speaking. In spite of this statistic, brave, eighth grade Florida Air Academy cadets face this fear each year to compete for the coveted Jonathan Dwight Memorial Award. Congratulations to Cadet Joseph Gallagher - - the Jonathan Dwight Memorial Award Winner.

exceed his older brother's good reputation. Cadet Dane Wright voiced appreciation for the academic challenges of higher-level courses, the caring attitude of the teachers, and hopes of playing on the varsity basketball team.

Each cadet contestant must prepare and present to a panel of judges a speech entitled, "What Florida Air Academy Means To Me." One by one



Academy Vice President Ms. Deborah Dwight presents the Jonathan Dwight Memorial Award to Cadet Joseph Gallagher.

The Jonathan Dwight Memorial Award is the most prestigious eighth grade award. This award is presented in recognition of qualities such as academic achievement, leadership and citizenship. Being deemed eligible and being nominated to compete for this award is the first honor each contestant receives.

This year's nominees had a lot to say. Cadet Joseph Gallagher outlined the meaning of academics, discipline, leadership skills and camaraderie. Cadet Mackenzie Sidwell (who follows in the footsteps of his big brother, an FAA graduate now attending Miami University) spoke of plans to excel and

these brave young men enter the room and stand alone in front of faculty, staff, and administrators to tell their story – how they came to Florida Air Academy, what they expected, and the positive experiences they've enjoyed while attending.

After each speech presentation the judges ask spontaneous questions that the student answers. This challenges their public speaking skills of presenting a prepared speech, as well as impromptu oral presentation. These young men met the challenge, making the choosing of one individual a difficult decision for the judges. Each cadet did an outstanding job.

Congratulations, gentlemen!

What Florida Air Academy Means To Me

(by Cadet Joseph Gallagher)

Florida Air Academy has meant several things to me. If I were to tell you four things that have meant the most to me over this past year, I would most definitely have to say the academics, discipline, leadership skills and the camaraderie learned. All four of these things combined have made me a better student, cadet, friend and most of all a better person.

I would say that the reason that I strive so hard in these areas came from a commitment that I made to myself on the first day of school. I remember walking into the Hall of Flags, completely disoriented and not knowing what to expect, and making a vow to myself to be the best that was possible in my academics and behavior. To this day, I believe that I have maintained that goal.

Webster's Dictionary defines the word, "discipline" as, training that corrects, molds, or perfects mental faculties or moral character. I would definitely say that this applies to discipline that I have learned here at Florida Air Academy. To me the words self-discipline and Florida Air Academy are synonymous. Not only have I learned self-discipline, I have learned respect for others and respect for people with authority. This has helped me in situations that I have faced previously to this date, and situations that I will face later in my life.

Another important lesson that I have learned, is that the best thing that you can do to earn respect, is to first give respect to the people that you want it from. I believe that this idea can help anyone.

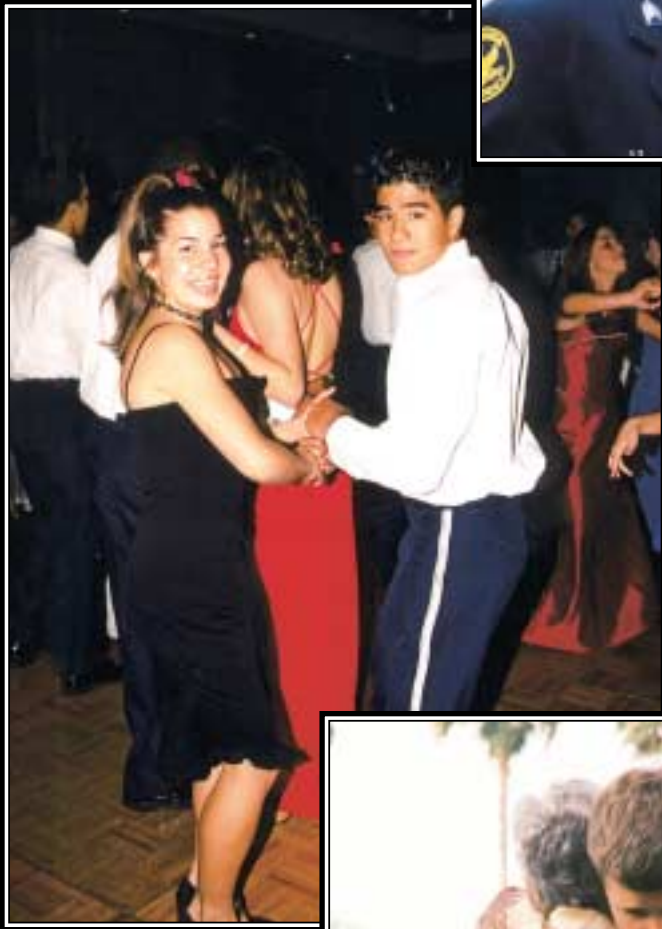
Academics at Florida Air Academy are beyond the necessary requirements of a school. The curriculum, along with the way it is presented, makes it possible for anyone to learn. I would say that I have probably been challenged more academically at this school, than during my entire elementary and junior high education combined. The after-school help sessions, along with the hands-on work in class, make learning fun as well. Knowledge that I have learned over this past year will better my chances for a brighter future.

The core of the cadet life at Florida Air Academy is Leadership. Those few qualified people who are chosen as leaders help, encourage, and demonstrate the correct way to do things. From getting us up in the morning, to putting us to bed at lights out, it takes dedication and a lot of hard work. People who try their hardest earn rank and position in the chain of command. This to me is the best reward for a job well done.

Although I have only been a border for one semester, I'll admit it is not easy being with four roommates, twenty-four hours a day. Still, the friendships made from this past year's experiences are unimaginable. Weekend activities, sports banquets, meals, study halls and town leave are just some of the experiences that have made friendships.

In four years, when I graduate, these are the memories that I will take with me. These are the ideas of Florida Air Academy that will stay with me for a lifetime. These are all things that Florida Air Academy means to me.

2000 End of the The Military



0 - 2001 Year Festivities Ball and Graduation!



Florida Air Academy and Cisco Systems to Provide Technology Education to Students

Public/Private alliances create digital opportunities for students

Florida Air Academy is teaming with Cisco Systems, Inc., the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, to become the site of a Local Cisco Networking Academy beginning with the Fall 2001 school semester. Upon completion of the program and final examination, students are certified as a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and/or Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) and are prepared to go on to higher education in Computer Science or Computer Engineering or enter the IT workforce.

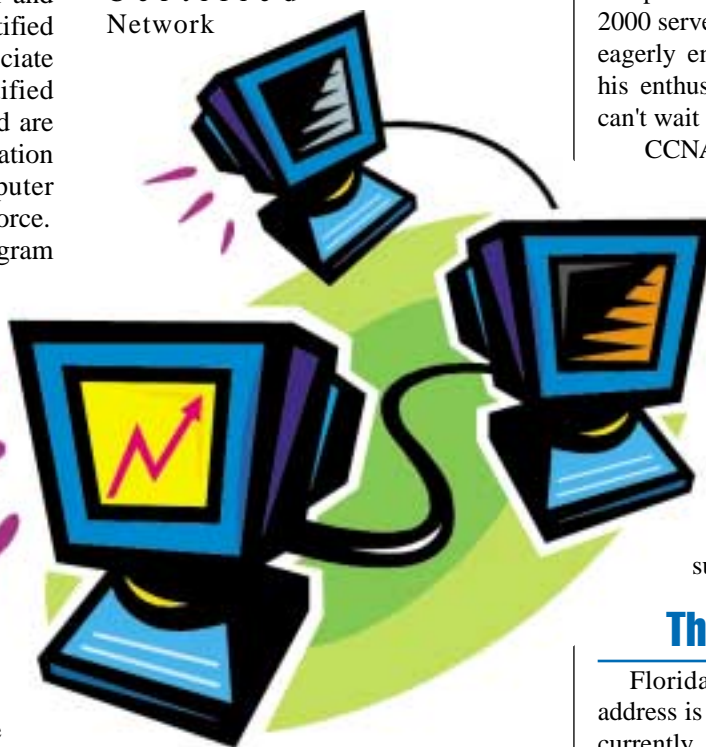
The Networking Academy program employs an e-learning model, using a combination of web-based, instructor-led learning and hands-on labs to teach high school, college and adult students how to design, build and maintain computer networks of local, national and global businesses.

"In the new Internet Economy, lifelong learning and technology training will be the foundation for remaining competitive in the workforce," said Cisco Chairman John Morgridge. "The Internet and education are the global equalizers in life, and Cisco is committed to improving education for today's students around the world," he continued.

Since its inception in October 1997, the Cisco Networking Academy Program has matured to educate more than 156,000 students in all 50 U.S. states and in more than 96 countries worldwide. More than 5,700 Networking Academies now exist around the world.

Florida Air Academy is one of a growing number of schools to bring this high-tech training program to students around the world. Students who

complete the first 280 hours of instruction are prepared to take a standardized test to qualify as a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA). Students who complete semester five through eight are prepared to take the Cisco Certified Network



Professional (CCNP) exam and become CCNP certified. Academy graduates are also prepared to build upon their networking skills by pursuing advanced education in science and engineering fields at colleges and universities.

The Networking Academy program provides course work for a complete range of basic through advanced networking concepts – from pulling cable, through such complex concepts as subnet masking rules and strategies to troubleshooting. Additional modules in the Academy program will provide Unix, Java and web development skills to students wanting to specialize in those areas.

More Technology News

In order to accommodate the new curriculum, Florida Air Academy remodeled and upgraded the Intro to Computers Lab to include 20 state-of-the-art Gateway computers, 17" monitors, and a Windows 2000 server. Cadet Acosta, a student who eagerly enrolled in the class, expressed his enthusiasm for the new offering, "I can't wait to get started! I want to get my CCNA before graduating."

Cadets who take the networking curriculum will have ample opportunity for real-life application as members of the Academy "Tech Team." These cadets help fellow cadets with computer problems and assist Elaine Calabro, the Network Administrator, with supporting the cadet network.

The FAA Web Site:

Florida Air Academy's web site address is <http://www.flair.com> - we are currently revamping the site to include areas for parent, student, and alumni login. We intend to use the site as a major form of communication. Add us to your Favorites and keep checking the site to watch our progress!!!

Upgrading - always upgrading. Florida Air Academy will soon have two T-1's for Internet connection. Cadets will be speeding down the information highway from their rooms, the library, and the computer labs. The Graphics and Web Design classes will enjoy the new Gateway computers, Photoshop 6, and Illustrator 9 - all new this summer. The Intro to Computer lab also has 20 new computers and will use Windows 2000 Pro and Microsoft Office 2000. Florida Air Academy strives to be on the cutting edge of technology.

FALL Leadership Challenge

by Cadet Tim Lucas

Byrd Baggett, author of *Taking Charge*, said, "A group of people committed to a shared vision can accomplish the impossible." As the cadet leaders at the 2001 Fall Leadership Challenge completed tasks and overcame obstacles, both mental and physical, the vision towards which they were working was clarified through their shared experiences and the knowledge provided them through the leadership conference.

Friday, August 17, was the leaders' first taste of what the coming year had to offer. The introduction of a new commandant of cadets, LTC Gamundi, was followed by a welcoming speech from Col. James Dwight, President of Florida Air Academy. Col. Dwight described his vision for the coming school year. He challenged all of the cadets in the room to help make this year the best in school history, emphasizing the necessity of leaders' support for this vision's success.

The flights began to work better together as the leadership challenge pressed on and provided more opportunities for common experiences within the flights, such as P.T., the BCC Ropes obstacle course, academic study of the Warrior Knowledge Handbook, and the Honor Flight Drill Competition, which is the inter-flight competition analyzing marching ability.

A break from habit was granted the leadership cadets Tuesday, as reveille was not until 6:00 a.m., and no P.T. was conducted that morning. Apart from the Warrior Knowledge Test administered after breakfast, Tuesday was centered on having fun. The cadets loaded onto busses and were shuttled over to Wickham Park where the flights competed in a series of physical competitions including volleyball, aquatic tug-o-war, and a watermelon relay race in the lake. Lunch was also eaten on location at Wickham, after which the cadet leaders rushed the tac officers, including LTC Gamundi, and threw them into the water — clothes and all.

The Fall Leadership Challenge provided a supplement to the leadership skills already acquired by the cadets during the previous school years. Additionally, it provided a common vision for the school towards which every leadership cadet was and is able to work and strive. The results of this leadership conference will be fluid and living, evolving to better suit the needs of Florida Air Academy and to better accommodate the details of that vision, the results of which will have come from the shared experiences of five short days.



Cadets regroup to plan a winning strategy.



**Finally, lunch time!
Abhhh relaxation!**



**The FAA version of
"Fun in the Sun".**



Pull! Pull harder! Pull!



Cadets declare "Victory!" at having successfully dunked the Tac Officers in the lake.



FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY

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FAA Parents, Teachers, and Students Association (PTSA)

The Florida Air Academy PTSA is a self-governing group of parents, teachers and students who work together with the administration to support the Academy's mission and beliefs. The PTSA partnership endeavors to promote character development, heighten the sense of community among our diverse Academy population, and support Academy students, personnel and programs through fundraising and volunteer activities.

For detailed information and meeting dates, please view the PTSA link of the Florida Air Academy web site at **www.flair.com**.

Fundraiser

Order your Entertainment Book to help earn money for the PTSA.

When finalizing your online order, select Florida Air Academy, and 20% of your purchase price will be given to the Florida Air Academy PTSA. All proceeds will be used to enrich campus living for our cadets.

Orders can be made on-line by going to the FAA web site www.flair.com, then select the "parents" link and the "PTSA" and "fundraiser" links. Online orders are available for many locations. If you are local or will be visiting Melbourne and would like a Melbourne area entertainment book you may purchase one on-campus at our next PTSA meeting or by contacting Ms. Roberta Smiley, Development Director.